

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
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2650 Farnam Street
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July 26, 2020

9:00 AM

EIGHTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C Amen.

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Reconciling God,

C we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.

We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we will live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✠ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- 1** Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by
night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2** Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high
tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my
pow'r.
- 3** Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4** Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- G** And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

- 1** Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. **R**
- 2** Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. **R**
- 3** Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **R**
- 4** For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. **R**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Beloved and Gracious God,
- G** through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we will treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.”⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:129-136 (read responsively)

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant

and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

*"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."*

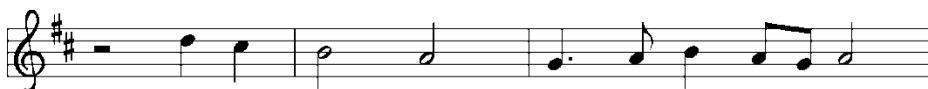
³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

(stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."*

³³He told them another parable: *"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."*

⁴⁴*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."*

⁴⁵*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."*

⁴⁷*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

⁵¹*"Have you understood all this?"* They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And Jesus said to them, *"Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."*

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

ELW 517

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done. | 2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally. |
| 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life. | |

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

☐ With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: ☐ Lord, in your mercy,
☑ **hear our prayer.**

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of Joan Nelson

Illness: Christine Bachman, sister of John Natvig, Richard Bock, Jacob Brown, nephew of Ron Brown, Karen Bucholz, Don Burton, Lois Carlsen, Carol Coffey, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Samuel Garrett, Sherry Henneman, mother of Scott Henneman, Dolores Hiatt, Beth & Richard Holzer, family of James Holzer, Renee Johnshon, daughter-in-law of Ken & Linda Jonhson, Marcie Lafleur, Donna Moessner, Gary Rodene, Vinn Stephens, Sheri Tipton, Dorothy Vancaster, Ed & Darlene White, Kimberly Wilson, Joanne Worm

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military*—Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission*—Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister

congregation, the American Church in Berlin; the Wittenberg Center and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

Other Prayers: *Seminarians*—Adam Klinker, Katie Larson, Justin Perkins

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

- ☐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

As we share the peace today – and you do so in your home – You are invited you to contact a fellow member by phone, email or letter. You can do that today or any time during the week. Pick someone from the church directory. We could email each other or call each other during this time when we cannot meet. Then each week select another person to contact. Try to make it someone you don’t really know and get acquainted with them. Always be sure to leave your address, email, and phone number on your message in case they do not have a directory. Talk to people you know and get the names and addresses of those who might not have directories and try to contact them. By the time we meet again we will have made many new friends.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

Please Support the overall ministry of Kountze Memorial during these difficult times. If you are able, please mail in your offering or donate on-line. Thank you!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

arr. Dale Wood
Paul Rath, *vocalist*

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P** God of goodness and growth,
- C** all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we will proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

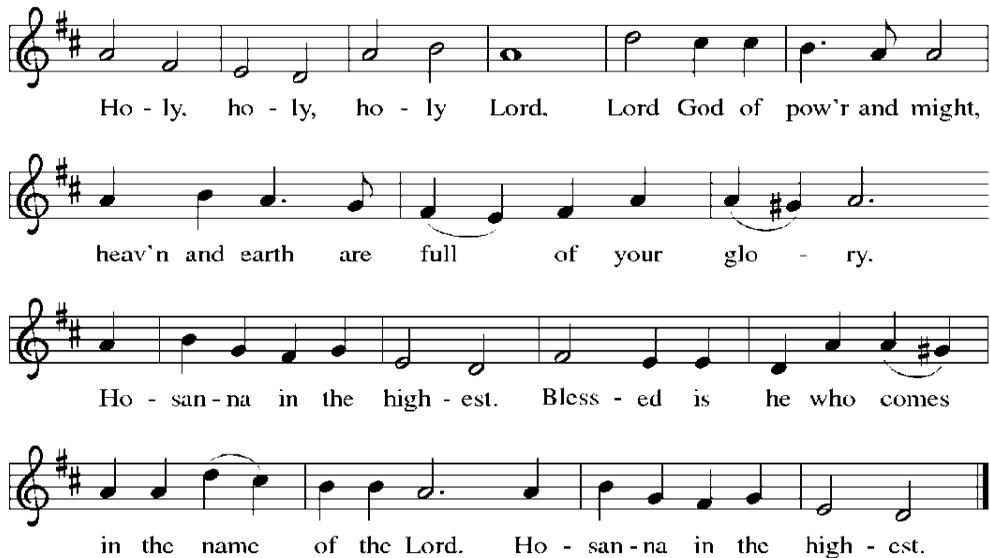
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR TIME AFTER PENTECOST

- ☐ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly. ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

- ☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

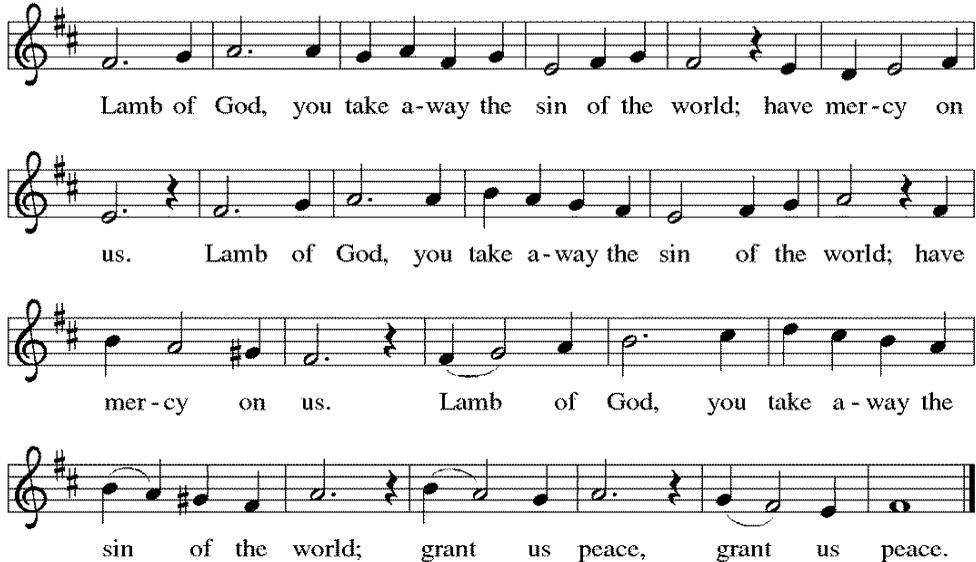
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ Friends of Jesus, come to his table.
- ☑ We receive nourishment for our journey.

(sit)

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“What Feast of Love”

ELW 487

- 1 What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!
- 2 What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given!
- 3 What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB.
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(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** God of the welcome table,
G **in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

- P** Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Almighty God, Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit bless you now and keep you in eternal love.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

ELW 772

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
to know and do his will!</p> <p>2 Order my footsteps by your word
and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord,
but keep my conscience clear.</p> | <p>3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
a stricter watch to keep;
and should I e'er forget your way,
restore your wand'ring sheep.</p> <p>4 Make me to walk in your commands,
'tis a delightful road;
nor let my head or heart or hands
offend against my God.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Jesus Christ is with you always.
G **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, Organist

✠ ✠ ✠

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Special Notice

If you plan to attend Worship in person, please call/e-mail the church office no later than noon on the Thursday before the Sunday you want to attend. Please note that the plans set forth are subject to immediate change. You may still join us for Worship on Cox channel 13 or live streamed at <https://www.kmlchurch.org/live-streaming/>



KOUNTZE

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July 26, 2020

Kountze Food Pantry Volunteers

**Mondays, 7:30 - 9:00 AM; 9:00 - 11:00 AM;
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**
Fridays, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

The Kountze Food Pantry will continue to operate out of the garage door. We believe the open air environment is better to protect volunteers and guests from the virus.

The Kountze Food Pantry more than doubled in attendance in June over May. July is looking to keep pace with that increase. The volunteers are doing a wonderful job keeping up with higher numbers! If you wish to volunteer, please sign up at the link below. If you can't volunteer, but wish to help, we can always use toilet paper, ramen noodles, coffee, and canned fruit. When volunteering, please sign up for available slots at the link below. Thank-you!

<https://form.jotform.com/200834787701155>



Attendance and Giving

Online Attendance: 137

9:00 AM Attendance: (Reservation Only) 39

Pantry Guests Served: 423

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 25

Offering:

\$10,388.04 (Regular)

\$1,264.68 (Specials)

\$1,152.00 (Phase 2)



CJH Camp Classic
Friday, August 21—Kearney,
NE

Friday, September 25—Carol
Joy Holling

Register at: cjhcenter.org/upcoming-retreats

Rally Day
Sunday, August 23

Today at Kountze

Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in honor of Dayle Johnson's birthday

Sunday School

Each Sunday I will post a video of the Children's sermon on the KMLC Parent Group Facebook Page. In addition, I will be providing some printable activities that relate to the lesson. Take a picture of your child's work and post it in the comments. Let's stay as connected as possible while we can't gather together. Stay tuned for more fun activities!

In Peace,
Kristin



The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom
Monday	1 Kings 3:5-12	Solomon's prayer for wisdom
Tuesday	Romans 8:26-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Genesis 29:15-28	Jacob marries
Thursday	Psalms 128	Happiness in daily life
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	God's grace is sufficient
Saturday	Psalms 119:129-136	The glories of God's law
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand



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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **Romans 8:26 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, help us in our weakness and sustain us with faith that trusts your never-failing care through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for daily food; as you restore our bodies with this meal, restore our souls with joy in your presence. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust that nothing will separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When was there a time you felt too weak to work through a problem on your own?
- Do you find prayer easy or difficult? Explain.
- What makes it difficult to know God is with you?

Read: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

Jesus tells five short parables: two about growth, two about valuing something very highly, and one about separating good from bad. There are details of these parables that have challenged Christians throughout the ages. However, Jesus asks the disciples if they “understood all this,” and without any sense of hesitation they simply say, “Yes” (v. 51). Perhaps there is a cautionary tale here. Solomon simply wants wisdom and is praised by God for such a humble request (1 Kings 3:5-12), yet the larger story in 1 Kings reveals that Solomon ended up wanting and claiming much more than a humble quest for wisdom. Instead of preserving the kingdom of Israel, the twelve tribes become split into two realms because of Solomon's failures. The Apostle Paul acknowledges our human frailty by noting that we do not know how to pray and that the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In the midst of seeking a life of faithfulness and wisdom, it is good to be reminded with much humility that our wisdom has its limits. Finally, what we need is a God who intercedes for us “with sighs too deep for words” (Romans 8:26). Recall when God has been with you during a time of personal weakness or difficulty. How did God help you then?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Sometimes when a person is going through difficult times, they can easily lose sight of God. Do you know of someone who is struggling? Reach out to that person in their time of need through an act of kindness by taking time to listen.

Many congregations are smaller today than years ago and may feel insignificant. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that big things can happen from the smallest of things. Growing the church is reliant on being intentional about sharing our own faith story and passing on the rituals and traditions we know and love onto the next generation. Pray daily that you may sow seeds of faith that grow into something great.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21